With a view to examine the recommendations made by the Expert Committee and to suggest measures to be taken for implementing them, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted by the Government.

Relief Materials to Flood Victims of Orissa

2123. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the relief material and food supply could not reach the marooned people affected by floods in Orissa, in time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the rescue operations started with the help of army could provide relief only to 40 per cent of the flood victims;

(c) what are the reasons for the civil authorities not acting in alacrity to provide timely relief to the flood affected people; and

(d) whether any probe is proposed to be undertaken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Distribution of relief at the gound level is the responsibility of the State Government. The Government of Orissa had reportedly taken all necessary steps from the beginning including issuing timely warnings, instructions to the District Collectors for evacuation of people and arranging relief supplies to the affected people. The State Government have informed that food stocks were available and that the sarpanches were authorised to administer relief in most cases. According to the State Government, the marooned people were rescued by the civilian authorities and the army and about 7 lakh people were evacuated during different stages of flood.

The State Government have also informed that the civil authorities have provided relief in time and that no probe is being undertaken.